

***Exbucklandia* vs. *Symingtonia* (Hamamelidaceae)**

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Abstract

The generic name *Symingtonia* Steen. is superfluous and illegitimate. The use of the names *Symingtonia* and *S. populnea* are shown to be erroneous and must be replaced by *Exbucklandia* R.W. Brown and *E. populnea* (R. Br. ex W. Griffith) R.W. Brown respectively.

INTRODUCTION

There is some confusion about the application of the names *Exbucklandia* R.W. Brown (1946) and *Symingtonia* Steen. (1952) (*Hamamelidaceae*), both based on *Bucklandia* R.Br. ex W.Griffith.

These names were for William Buckland (1784-1856), the renowned British geologist/paleontologist, and Colin Fraser Symington (1905-1943), the famous Forest Botanist in Kepong especially known for his work on the *Dipterocarpaceae* of Malaya.

It was long thought that *Bucklandia* was first mentioned by Wallich (1832) in '*Bucklandia populnea* R. Brown mpt.' where it was not validly published as it lacks a description. Validation took place by W. Griffith (1832).

However, the generic name had already been used by K. Presl (1825) for a fossil *Cycadaceae*, and by Brongniart (1828) for another plant fossil. The name was in 1955 also proposed for a moss by Roivanen named after Mt. Buckland, Tierra del Fuego, named after the geologist.

R.W. Brown (1946) realized that *Bucklandia* R. Br. could not be used. He wrote '*Exbucklandia* Roland W. Brown, n. name (for *Bucklandia* Robert Brown) . . . The single species becomes *Exbucklandia populnea* (Robert Brown) Roland W. Brown'.

Van Steenis had noticed this, too, and in 1952 proposed the name *Symingtonia*, with as one of the now two species *S. populnea* (Griffith) Steen.

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Soon afterwards the R.W. Brown publication was pointed out to Van Steenis, who then said that '*Exbucklandia* will have to be accepted' (1954).

Somewhat later he changed his mind, however. Similar to Linnaeus Van Steenis also thought it fit to ameliorate his authors' writings (Veldkamp, Vink, pers. exp.) and so the following remark under *Symingtonia* in Vink's revision of the Malesian *Hamamelidaceae* (1957) is his and not that of Vink: '(R.W. Brown) failed to fulfill the conditions for its valid publication as required by art. 42 of the then (and now) prevailing rules of botanical nomenclature' [i.e. Briquet, 1935]. It's not quite clear what part of the article had not been fulfilled, it may be that he felt that the place and date of publication of the basionym were not indicated clearly enough. Whatever it is, nomenclature is ruled by the articles of the latest code which are retroactive (unless specified) and which supersede previous versions. At present the 'Tokyo Code' (Greuter *et al.*, 1994) is to be followed, where art. 41.2 states that new names for old taxa may have 'indirect' references. R.W. Brown did give these by citing *Bucklandia* Robert Brown and implying that *B. populnea* would be the basionym for *Exbucklandia populnea* (Robert Brown) Roland W. Brown (see also art. 32.5, ex. 5 for a similar case).

From this it must be concluded that *Exbucklandia* was validly published, and that *Symingtonia* having the same base, is superfluous and illegitimate. The combinations *B. populnea* and *S. populea*, however, are legitimate, although incorrect (Art. 55.1), and not 'nom. inval.' (Turner, 1997).

The use of *Symingtonia* and *S. populnea* in some important accounts is erroneous: e.g. Vink (1957), Whitmore (1973), Jansen *et al.* (1991) and Ng (1992). The names must be replaced by *Exbucklandia* R.W. Brown and *E. populnea* (R. Br. ex W. Griffith) R.W. Brown.

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